



Bloomington
Art Center

10206 Penn Avenue S.

BAC Gallery Players presents
"The Glass Menagerie"

By Tennessee Williams
Directed by Jon Stentz
One show only!
When: Saturday, February 22.
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: \$5 at the door.
For more information, call 952-563-4777. ♦

Bloomington Civic Theatre presents
"West Side Story"

A powerful, daring and influential musical of the 1950s, West Side Story is a collaborative effort by Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Arthur Laurents and Jerome Robbins. This musical Romeo and Juliet remains pertinent and popular today. Choreographer John Command, famous locally and in Los Angeles and New York, recreates the stunning dance numbers.

When: January 30 - February 23.
Times: Thursdays - Saturdays 7:30 p.m.
Sundays 2 p.m.
Where: Richfield Middle School,
75th Street and Oliver Avenue South.
Cost: \$20 Adults; \$17 seniors; \$10 students.

For information, call 612-825-7667 or visit www.bloomington-civictheatre.com. ♦



Bloomington Symphony Orchestra

"**Bruckner's Symphony 4 Romantic**" features Akira Mori, grand prize soloist of the Minnesota String Orchestra Teachers Association student competition. The concert also includes Dvorak's "The Noon-Day Witch."

When: Sunday, March 2.
Time: 3 p.m.
Where: Cedar Valley Church, 8600 Bloomington Ave. So.
Cost: Free.

For more information, call 952-881-4114 or visit www.bloomingtonsymphony.org. ♦

Taste of Chocolate

When: Sunday, February 23.
Time: 1 - 4:30 p.m.
Where: Radisson Hotel South,
7800 Normandale Boulevard.
Tickets: \$20 each, \$30 includes Mayor's Reception.

Please join us for a delightful chocolate tasting fundraiser for the Bloomington Fine Arts Council where chocolate desserts are prepared by the finest Twin Cities restaurants and bakeries. Entertainment includes ballet, theater, the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra and Medalist Band, Angelica Cantanti children's chorus and other musical groups. Chocolate prize drawings, a silent auction with more than 300 items and a Mayor's Preview Reception will also be featured.

For more information, call 612-978-1542. ♦



Three Rivers Park District

Hyland Lake
Park Reserve
10145 East Bush Lake Road

♦ Hyland Lake Visitor Center	952-941-4362
♦ Richardson Nature Center	952-941-7993
♦ Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area	952-835-4250
♦ Cross-Country Ski Trail Hotline	763-559-6778

Spring highlights

- ♦ HSSA Chalet Drive Golf Practice Center features 40 driving stations and a restaurant.
 - ♦ New Visitor Center with concessions and rental equipment.
 - ♦ 5.6-mile paved hiking and biking trail.
- ♦ 7.3 miles of turf hiking trails.
 - ♦ 2.5 miles of pet walking trails.
 - ♦ Picnicking, fishing and boating areas.
 - ♦ Nature Center with programs, displays and rental equipment. ♦

Pond-Dakota Mission Park



Gideon H.
Pond House
401 E. 104th St.

Pond-Dakota Mission Park is the site of the Gideon Pond House, which was constructed in 1856. Listed on both the National and Minnesota Registers of Historic Places, the restored Federal-style, two-story brick house is open for tours on the third Sunday of each month from 1:30 - 4 p.m. or by appointment. Admission is \$3.
Fun for all ages

During open house hours, activities and programs for all ages will be offered. Activities combine the best of what the park has to offer:

- ♦ Miles of hiking and mountain biking trails.
- ♦ Wildlife that live along the river.
- ♦ Native and non-native plant species.
- ♦ A rich historical and cultural perspective.

Open House activities at the Park

Come visit the Pond-Dakota Mission Park on the following Sundays, from 1:30 - 4 p.m., and learn more about your community's heritage.

February 16

The Soul of the Indian

Lecture on the Dakota religion, based on the book by Charles Alexander Eastman.

Time: 3 - 3:45 p.m.

March 16

Maple Sugaring

Demonstrations on tapping trees for sap and making maple sugar. *May be cancelled due to weather conditions.*

Time: 2 - 4 p.m.

April 27

Cornhusk Dolls

All ages are welcome to learn how to make cornhusk dolls. A doll takes about one hour to make. Reservations required. Limit 10 per class.

Time: Session 1: 12 - 1 p.m.
Session 2: 1 - 2 p.m.

Cost: Additional \$1 fee for supplies.

History of Bloomington

Lecture on the history of our city.

Time: 3 - 3:45 p.m.

May 18

Guided Hiking Tours

Discover where a Dakota tepee village once stood, see a natural spring and enjoy a guided-hike along the Minnesota River Valley. All ages welcome.

Time: 2 - 3 p.m.

Service Day

When: Saturday, May 17
Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Who: Age 12 and older.

On-site service projects may include: building bat houses, gardening or trail work, housecleaning and polishing antiques. Recommended for grades 7 and up. Bring your own lunch and snacks. A treat and certificate will be presented at the end of the day. Reservations required.

For information

The Pond-Dakota Mission Park is owned by the City of Bloomington and operated with assistance from the Gideon Pond Heritage Society and volunteers. For information, call 952-563-8881 or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords "pond house." ♦



EARTH ACTION

For more information, call Recycling/Solid Waste Section at 952-563-8750.

Building community improves our lives in many ways!

Personal gratification and a sense of belonging are a few of the benefits for those involved in their communities. Studies show that people who feel connected are more upbeat and live longer, healthier lives. Choose to volunteer just a few hours a week, become active in your neighborhood block club, recruit others to clean up your neigh-

borhood or help a friend. There are many ways to show you care. This year, the Earth Action pages will provide tips on how you can make a difference in Bloomington. Clear away the clutter by participating in the **Citywide Curbside Cleanup and Garage Sale**. Help a neighbor carry unwanted items to the curb or offer to take hazardous materials or

recyclable items to the hazardous waste facility. **Donate** gently worn items to charity. Attend the **Environmental - Clean Water Festival** to learn how to reduce your impact on the environment. **Adopt a park, wetland or street**. Community building starts with you and is constructed one block at a time. ♦

Choose to reuse

According to Hennepin County Environmental Services, 32 million pounds of usable clothing and household goods are thrown away each year despite the numerous reuse opportunities provided by repair, second-hand and consignment businesses, or by donations to charitable organizations.

Don't trash quality reusable items

When sorting through items for the Curbside Cleanup this spring, choose to reuse. Donate quality, reusable items to local charities instead of setting them out to be hauled to the landfill. Call ahead to find out what is accepted. Most organizations will even pick up your unwanted items for free!

Contributions build community

For most of these charitable organizations, proceeds from the sale of donated goods fund their programs and help those in need. Donating items is a great way to contribute to your community, reduce unnecessary waste and receive a tax deduction. Consider volunteering your time to help these or other agencies in your community. Some organizations to consider include Arc's Value Village, The Re-use Center, and Bridging Inc. ♦

Approximately 486,000 shopping carts could be filled with the amount of reusable clothing and household goods disposed of each year in Hennepin County. If lined up, that amount would stretch from Minneapolis to Milwaukee.



The Re-use Center

2216 E. Lake Street
Minneapolis
612-724-2608



What's accepted: Usable building materials including doors, windows, cabinets, plumbing fixtures, lumber, flooring and hardware.

Who benefits: By offering materials at reasonable prices, the Re-use Center contributes to the improvement of neighborhood, regional and statewide housing stock, and tons of reusable construction materials are kept out of landfills.

Arc's Value Village

6528 Penn Ave. So., Richfield
612-861-9550

What's accepted: Books, clothing, small appliances, household goods, sporting goods and electronics.

Who benefits: Provides advocacy and support for people with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities and their families.



Bridging, Inc.

201 W. 87th St., Bloomington
952-888-1105

What's accepted: Furniture, household goods and linens in good condition. (No books, TVs, microwaves or clothing.)

Who benefits: Distributes free beds, furniture and household goods to approximately 3,000 families in transition per year. Their program empowers economically disadvantaged individuals to take charge of their lives. Target populations include victims of homelessness and domestic abuse, as well as individuals who have a chronic life threatening disease or who are in job transition.



"Thank you for the beautiful sofa and two chairs. You may never know just how much it blessed me and my two daughters; they are just as excited and happy as I am."

Bridging, Inc. client

Celebrate our wet, wild and wonderful world!

Environmental - Clean Water Festival

New location! garden & compost tips Games! Entertainment! Zoomobile & fun Refreshments! Prizes! tree & mower

When: Saturday, April 12.

Where: Valley View Middle School, 351 E. 88th St.

Time: 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Learn to make more environmentally sustainable choices that save money, improve health and simplify your life. Using games and entertainment to educate, the one-day Environmental - Clean Water Festival focuses on the importance of keeping the environment and Minnesota's wetlands, lakes and water bodies clean. For more information or to volunteer, call 952-563-4633. ♦

In celebration of Arbor Day - Friday, April 25

Get rid of unwanted items

Join the crowd and participate in the Citywide Curbside Cleanup and the Garage Sale this year.

Spring 2003 Curbside Cleanup dates

Location	Regular trash day is	2003 Curbside pickup is Saturday,
West of Normandale	Friday	April 26
France to Normandale	Thursday	May 3
Penn to France	Wednesday	May 17
Portland to Penn	Tuesday	June 7
East of Portland	Monday	June 14

2003 Citywide Garage Sale

The Human Services Division presents the 4th Annual Citywide Garage Sale to be held May 1, 2 and 3.

Hold your own sale

Registration fee is \$19 and includes a yard sign, advertising and individual listing in the official registry of sale addresses. Deadline is April 11.

Find the sales

Purchase your official garage sale list for \$1 beginning April 29 at City Hall and Creekside Community Center. Proceeds benefit the Senior Program.

For more information, call Creekside Community Center at 952-563-4957 V/TTY. ♦



Separate scrap metal



Scrap metal is a problem waste - it cannot be burned at the incinerator. To keep disposal costs down, small scrap metal items that can fit into an automobile are no longer collected. These items can be taken to **South Hennepin Problem Waste and Recycling Facility, 1400 West 96th Street, 612-348-3777.**

Only large scrap metal will be collected including:

- ◆ Large metal office desks.
- ◆ Clothesline poles.
- ◆ Swing sets.

Remove wood, rubber, cement or other nonmetal materials from these items. Large pieces of scrap metal must be separated from other materials when you set out items to be collected. Cast iron bathtubs or metal items that exceed 150 pounds will be **NOT** be accepted.

For more information, call Recycling. ♦



Understanding our differences

*When we learn more about each other,
we learn more about ourselves.
Together, we can make a world of difference.*

Since 1993, Bloomington has enjoyed a mutually beneficial Sister City relationship with Izumi City, Japan. A suburban city located southwest of Osaka, Izumi City shares many characteristics of Bloomington, including a metropolitan location, a neighboring airport, a college or university within its boundaries and a similar economic structure.

Bridging cultures

The Sister City Organization works to establish friendships, build understanding and develop economic relationships between the two cities. Flora Tskuyama, who facilitates the organization's student exchange program, says getting to know another country with a completely different culture is invaluable.

"Now more than ever, it is extremely important to promote understanding between countries," said Tskuyama. "Whatever we can do to bridge cultures and educate each other is beneficial to all Americans."

Help create a new world

Bloomington Sister City Organization holds trade

shows, festivals, dinners and visits throughout the year. Support for the non-profit all-volunteer organization comes from memberships, donations, fundraisers, the School District, Normandale Community College and the City of Bloomington.

To find out about events and happenings within in the organization, visit www.bloomington-izumi.org.

If you would like to become a member or for more information, call 952-563-8713. ♦



Izumi High School Delegation to visit

Approximately 10 - 15 Izumi High School students will visit Bloomington in July. If you are interested in being a host family or would like to be involved in the planning and supervision of the delegation while they are here, call 952-563-8713.



Keeping our promises to youth

BUY has a five-year history of educating, nurturing and supporting youth. In collaboration with our community, BUY ensures that all youth have access to the Five Promises outlined by America's Promise - Alliance for Youth. *See sidebar.* Highlights of the past year's activities and partnerships that have helped BUY keep these promises include:

Increasing youth involvement in their community.

Last fall, BUY co-sponsored a leadership retreat for high school youth with the theme: "Leadership Through Service." Students explored leadership skills, service opportunities and built connections with each other. A similar retreat for middle school youth will be held this spring.

Providing community awareness of youth development through the Five Promises.

BUY developed a Web site to help meet this goal. BUY participated at community and school gatherings including Safety Fest, Bloomington Loves Its Kids (*see page 4*), middle school orientations and high school conferences. BUY also shared information on youth development and how to include youth in decision-making.

Expanding and strengthening our network of partners through recruiting, recognizing, promoting, connecting and training members.

BUY is renewing the commitment of the founding partners and adding new partners. These partners make up a cross-section of the community that includes adults, youth, businesses, schools, and government, faith, civic, nonprofit and youth-serving organizations. Benefits of partnerships include showing commitment to our youth, gaining local and national recognition, promotion of our organization and increasing visibility of volunteer opportunities.

For more information, call Vicki Hackett at 952-563-4918, Dick Ramberg at 952-922-1416 or visit www.bloomingtonyouth.org. ♦

BUY's 5 Promises

Mentor - an ongoing relationship with a caring adult.

Protect - a safe place during both school and non-school hours.

Nurture - a healthy start and lifestyle.

Teach/learn - a marketable skill.

Serve - an opportunity to give back to the community through service.

Life is Like a Valued Patchwork

Bloomington Human Services serves up another exciting season of Life is Like a Valued Patchwork. The monthly program offers a variety of learning opportunities and a continental breakfast. All programs are held at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$3, payable at the door. To register, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY. For transportation, call 952-563-4948. ♦

Wednesday, February 26 Art of Ancient Egypt

Originally from Cairo, Osmon Elhadary offers a lecture and slide presentation on the art of ancient Egypt. An independent scholar of Egyptology, Elhadary presents more than 8,000 years of fascinating Egyptian art in chronological order, allowing viewers to appreciate the great evolution of this culture over time.

Wednesday, March 26 Medical Assistance and "Spending Down"

What is allowed in "spending down"? How can assets be protected? What can the community spouse keep and what do they have to give up? Learn about eligibility, asset limitation, and available, excluded and unavailable assets. Don't miss this opportunity to get clear information on the laws surrounding governmental medical assistance programs.

Bloomington is FamiLink's new home

Your bridge to community resources, information and referrals for everything from childcare to senior housing just got closer. FamiLink is now located at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. One call to FamiLink connects you to resources throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

FamiLink is part of the Hennepin South Services Collaborative which links South Hennepin County cities, schools, health and human service providers, businesses and families together.

Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weekdays. For information, call FamiLink at 952-884-0444. Walk-ins are welcome. ♦

Free tax preparation assistance

Free income tax assistance is available for qualifying individuals at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Tax preparation is available by walk-in on a first-come, first-served basis February 1 - April 15 on Tuesdays from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

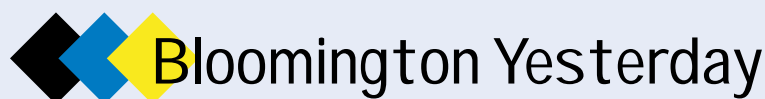
To qualify for this service your income must be:

- ♦ Under \$25,000 for an individual.
- ♦ Under \$35,000 for a family.

Tax preparation is provided by trained volunteers with Accountability Minnesota, in collaboration with Bloomington Human Services and FamiLink. For more information, call 952-884-0444 V/TTY. ♦

Annual spring dance

Dust off your dancing shoes. The Bloomington Senior Program's Annual Spring Dance will be held Wednesday, April 23, from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Bloomington Armory, 3300 West 98th Street. Refreshments, door prizes and the music of the Jolly Nobles will be included. Cost is a \$3 donation, payable at the door. Transportation reservations must be made one week in advance. Call 952-563-4948 or 952-563-4957 V/TTY. ♦



Emanuel St. Martin farm home

Built around 1887, the Emanuel St. Martin house was located north of 98th Street near Penn Avenue. The St. Martins were part of a group of French homesteaders that settled southern Bloomington near Neuf Milles Riviere (Nine Mile Creek.) The St. Martin house burned down in the mid-1930s. A new house was built shortly after. Pictured are members of the family and several farm hands. ♦



Photo credit: Bloomington Historical Society

City wins Project of the Year Award



The City of Bloomington received the Minnesota Public Works Association's (MPWA) Project of the Year Award for its Water Treatment Plant expansion project. City staff and hired contractors and consultants were presented with the award at an annual MPWA conference in November. The plant's expansion project won in the environmental category.

Exceptional efforts

Judges praised the City for its outstanding work during construction including:

- ◆ Implementing good management techniques and completing the project on schedule.
- ◆ Maintaining an excellent safety performance and good overall safety program.
- ◆ Improving community relations by minimizing public inconvenience due to construction, protecting public lives and property through safety precautions, and providing observation areas and guided tours.



Utilities Superintendent Bob Cockriel and Public Works Director Charles Honchell accepted the Project of the Year Award for the Water Treatment Plant expansion.

◆ Protecting the environment.

◆ Maintaining quality control and using time and/or money-saving techniques.

Continuing quality service

The expansion of the Sam H. Hobbs Water Treatment Plant at 9300 Poplar Bridge Road was completed in September. The two-year project doubles the plant's water treatment capacity and allows the City to meet our community's growing residential and commercial drinking water needs for the long term.

About the award

The MPWA's Project of the Year Award was established to recognize outstanding individuals, groups and chapters, and to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works projects. For more information, call Utility Operations Manager Glen Gerads at 952-563-8775.



Improvements for 2003 elections

Elections are the keystone to making our democracy and country as great as it is. The City is working on a number of improvements to make this fundamental duty a better experience for Bloomington residents.

Precinct realignments

As noted in the December *Briefing*, improvements include precinct realignments that are scheduled to be completed in spring or early summer. The realignments will diminish the size, change the location and improve voting facilities at some precincts. City staff will also develop layouts and procedures for all voting facilities once the sites have been finalized. Additional voting booths will be made available to precincts where needed. While this year's local elections may not bring as large a turnout as even-year elections, they will provide a chance to test the improvements and changes.

For more information, call Kim Engberg, Deputy City Clerk, at 952-563-8729 or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us to view the December *Briefing*. ◆

Thank you

The City would like to thank the large number of people who have expressed interest in serving as election judges. Your willingness to fulfill this vital function is greatly appreciated.



Meeting our water needs

Approximately 100 people attended a dedication and open house to honor the Sam H. Hobbs Water Treatment Plant's expansion project. The December event included guided tours of the facility, a ribbon cutting ceremony and speakers Mayor Gene Winstead, City Manager Mark Bernhardson and Public Works Director Charlie Honchell. With the expansion completed, the plant is producing water at its full capacity of 14 million gallons per day. The added capacity allows the City to meet the basic water needs of Bloomington's residents and businesses.

To schedule a guided tour of the facility or for more information, call Jon Eaton at 952-563-4501 or e-mail jeaton@ci.bloomington.mn.us. ◆

Public safety training facility breaks ground

Construction of a joint training facility for police and fire personnel in the south metropolitan area began last November. The Southwest Metro Joint Public Safety Training Center, located at 7525 Braemer Boulevard in Edina, is a collaborative effort of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Police Department and the Fire and Police Departments of the cities of Eden Prairie, Edina and Bloomington.

Training facility

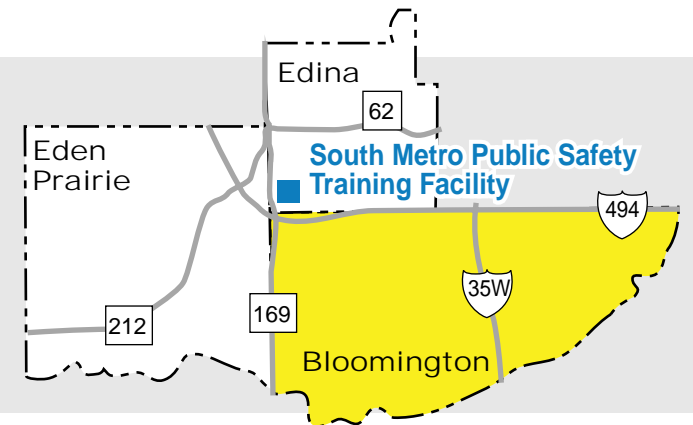
Approximately 600 police and fire personnel will regularly use the facility. The center will feature an indoor police firing range, classroom space for both police and fire personnel and a defensive tactics training area. Fire training facilities include a fire tower, residential fire structure and outdoor areas for simulated fire rescue scenarios.

Financing

Facility construction will cost \$5.5 million. Financing will be shared by each of the entities based on the number of full-time or volunteer personnel. A state grant of \$500,000 will assist in financing the project.



The center is scheduled to open in fall 2003. ◆



City recognized for annual report

The City of Bloomington's *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year ended December 31, 2001. The City has received this award for the past 30 years, longer than any other Minnesota city. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. ◆

